Further instructions have been issued to all State and UT Governments to take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

Essential commodities Act to check hoarding/price rise

1557. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of Essential Commodities Act are adequate to enable States to prevent hoarding of wheat, pulses, etc., thereby checking undue price rise;

(b) if so, how many traders were booked for crossing limits imposed by State Governments since August, 2006 when powers under this Act were invoked and regularly renewed every six month till now State-wise; and

(c) the other steps taken to prevent further price rise of foodgrains meant for vulnerable sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Data available on action taken by the State Governments/UTs under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from the year 2006 is given below:

Year	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)
2006	135025	5421	3244	498	977.21
2007	235405	6944	4872	1022	4003.96
2008	268775	8001	6425	790	6095.22
2009 (upto 30.06.2009) (Updated as on 13.07.2009)	56990	3152	1691	24	1314.79

(c) Under the Public Distribution System Government of India procures and provides essential commodities to the state governments for distribution to the vulnerable sections of society. In addition through a mix of monetary, fiscal and trade policies steps have been taken to contain theprice rise for essential commodities.

Food security for BPL families

1558. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working on a provision related to food security for BPL families;

(b) if so, whether there is any reliable data not allowing for bogus ration cards on the total number of such families for all the States;

(c) if so, what are particulars such as number of families State-wise, total quantity of rice and wheat required for distribution @ 25 kg. per family and subsidy cost thereof; and

(d) by when the Act is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family is to be entitled to receive 25 kg of food grains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, allocations and subsidy required, etc. are to be worked out. In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action, in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders, on different aspects of the proposed law.

The Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibilities for lifting of the allocated foodgrains, their internal allocation within State/UT, identification of eligible BPL & AAY families based on estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible ration cardholders through fair price shops rest with the State/UT Governments. The State/UT Governments are also required, under the PDS (Control) Order 2001, to review the lists of BPL families annually, remove inclusion and exclusion errors and eliminate bogus ration cards.

Demand and supply of PDS items

1559. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items supplied under PDS to the States during last three years, State-wise and item-wise;

(b) the supply *vis-a-vis* demand of these items, during the same period, Statewise; and

(c) the number of BPL and APL families benefited, during the same period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Commodity-wise details are as follows: